

Three's company for parents of triplets

Pam Fleming
Staff writer

When it comes to romance, two's company and three's a crowd. But for Jason and Lisa Kahler, recent parents of triplets, three's company.

A Romulus High School teacher, Kahler and his wife, residents of Roseville, received an early Christmas present when the triplets were born Dec. 10, 2002.

Since they eat every two to three hours, the tribe is keeping the young couple busy in a house already shared with two cats, a dog and a rabbit.

Zachary John was the first-born, via caesarean section, at 5:12 p.m., weighing 4 pounds, 14 ounces. Jacob Michael followed at 5:13 p.m., weighing 4 pounds, 9 ounces. Gabrielle Marie arrived last at 5:14 p.m. and was the smallest at 3 pounds, 14 ounces.

Born at Oakwood Hospital in Dearborn, the triplets stayed in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) for only nine days, and none of the newborns had to be

placed on a ventilator, according to the Kahlers. "They just wanted to monitor their body temperature for a few days and make sure they were eating well," the new mother said.

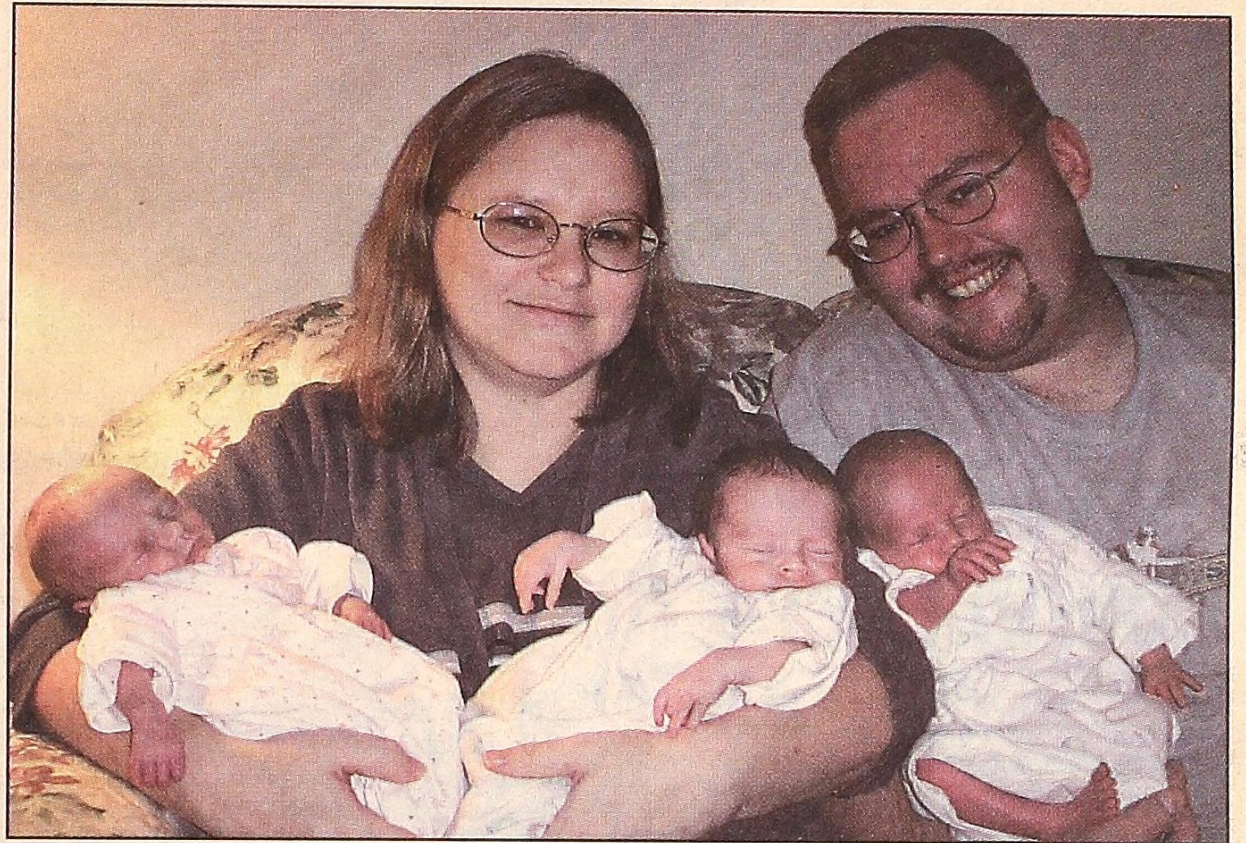
And, much to the Kahlers' surprise, they all came home on the same day.

"The staff at the hospital originally told us that they'd probably be in the NICU for several weeks, and that they probably wouldn't all come home at the same time," Kahler said.

But, they're all home now, enjoying their three cribs, three infant seats, three car seats, three high chairs, three swings—and two tired parents.

The triplets aren't identical, and already have nicknames. Zach is "Big Man," Jacob is "Bug," and Gabrielle is "Spitfire."

"Jacob's a sloppy eater and has shown the most personality so far. He's the most active," Kahler said. "Zach's the perfect baby. He doesn't cry, doesn't fuss and sleeps when he's supposed



Romulus High School teacher Jason Kahler and his wife, Lisa, are the proud parents of triplets born Dec. 10 at Oakwood Hospital in Dearborn. Pictured from left, Gabrielle, Jacob and Zachary, were conceived with the help of a fertility drug, Follistim, that stimulates egg production. Photo by Pam Fleming

to. Gabrielle's the loudest and has been ever since she was born."

However, "They all have the same nose and Lisa's chin," the proud new father noted.

The couple said their greatest challenge as parents of triplets, so far, was selecting a stroller. "It

was easier to name them than to pick out a stroller," Jason Kahler said.

"We drove all the way to Jackson to look at a three-baby stroller," Lisa Kahler said. "We finally decided on a single and a double, mainly because of the cost of the three-baby model at

about \$800," she added.

"Plus, the only time you need a three-baby stroller is if you were going to take them out by yourself, and who in their right mind would do that?" the new father joked.

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The Belleville High School Symphony Band will perform in New York for the third time in April.

Band members head for Carnegie Hall

Pam Fleming
Staff writer

Members of the Belleville High School Symphony Band are bound for the Big Apple, where they've been invited to play at Carnegie Hall in April.

To help defray the cost of the trip, the Belleville Band Boosters will have a chicken dinner and live auction from 6 to 8 p.m. Jan. 24 at Van Buren Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Road.

According to Gwen Post, Band Booster member and committee chair, dinner will be served at 6 p.m., with the auction starting at

7 p.m. All proceeds from the event will be used for the New York trip.

"We have a Band Booster member who is a chef preparing the meal," Post said.

Tickets cost \$8 prior to the event and \$9 at the door. Tickets are available from any band member, Belleville Band Boosters or by calling Post at 734-699-9772.

The live auction will include a variety of offerings. "We hope to have things like gift baskets, gift certificates from various restaurants, department stores, nail and hair salons. One of the Band

Boosters has also offered the use of her cabin up north for a weekend," Post said.

Band members will perform at the New York Wind Band Festival at 2 p.m. April 3 at the Carnegie Hall Isaac Stern Auditorium. The festival features high school and college ensembles from Michigan, California, Washington, Puerto Rico and Japan.

"They're very excited," Post said. "It's really a once in a lifetime opportunity for some of the students, especially those who

See **Carnegie**, page 3

Romulus denies judge's request for insurance pay

Members of the Romulus City Council unanimously denied a request Monday from retired 34th District Court Judge William J. Szlinis for 100 percent payment instead of 50 percent payment of his health, dental and life insurance coverage.

"It's important to me now, because my 401K is now a 201K," Szlinis told council members.

Szlinis, 70, served as a judge for 13 years and was forced to retire Jan. 1 due to constitutional age restrictions on judges. He now works as a visiting judge.

A city policy and administrative order signed in February 1999 states the court will pay 50 percent of medical, dental and health insurance for non-union employees who accumulate 10 years of service. After 15 years, 75 percent of the insurance costs are paid, and after 20 years, 100 percent of the benefits are paid.

Szlinis wanted full insurance coverage for judges who have served two terms.

"Judges aren't term-limited, we're age-limited," he said. "The principle is sound, but as it applies to me, I don't think it's appropriate," Szlinis said.

Secondly, he said that the

administrative order signed by Chief District Judge Tina Brooks-Green was not received by the state court administrator's office.

Finally, he noted that an arbitration ruling on a lawsuit brought against the city by 13 city employees in 1996 resulted in the employees being awarded full insurance after 10 years of service.

Romulus Mayor Pro Tem Randolph Gear said, "If we do this now, we'll set a precedent, and everyone will want a piece of the pie."

City Attorney Barry Seifman said, "If we gave 100 percent benefits to judges after only two terms of service, we could see Judge Tina Brooks-Green receiving lifetime full benefits at age 39. If you make one exception, that's when the challenge starts."

Council member Larry Burcroff said, "If we go against this order, it could be challenged by other employees and open the city to lawsuits in the future."

"I think it was just a matter of money," Szlinis said. "The council made a decision based on economics. I disagree, but I have to accept it."

Carpenter's Lake is topic of Wayne library talk

Scott Spielman
Editor

At one time, residents of western Wayne County didn't have to travel too far to go swimming, camping or race a canoe across placid blue water.

They simply went to Carpenter's Lake, a man-made feature just 2 miles outside of the City of Wayne that was popular during the 1930s and 1940s.

The lake and the history and culture surrounding it will be featured in a presentation next week at the Wayne Public Library. Arthur L. Carpenter, a life-long Wayne resident and the grandson

of Irving Carpenter, who developed the lake and oversaw the activities that took place there, will provide insight into the history of the lake and environs.

"The lake was used quite a bit by a lot of people," he said.

The story begins in 1904 when Irving moved into the area and purchased 80 acres of land near where Hannan and Hix roads are today. Industry in the area included a sugar production operation and a horse livery, both owned and operated by the Carpenter clan, according to Arthur.

Excavation for the lake started later, though.

Carpenter said he's made the presentation before – he introduced the talk at the Wayne Historical Society in 1967, and spoke again for the group in 1991.

"I'm not exactly sure when he got the idea for it," Carpenter said. He has cancelled checks dating back to the 1920s that suggest that's when the idea originated.

Irving Carpenter used the natural topography of the area to

create the lake, according to Irving. It was located on the flood plain of the Rouge River, and a small dyke he constructed provided the foundation for it.

"They tried wells at first, but it didn't supply enough water," Carpenter said.

The dam, however, did. Soon the lake became a place where people could come to spend the day in a rowboat or canoe or swimming alongside them. Ted Harper, a professional ice skater during the 1940s spent time cruising across the frozen surface during the winter months, according to Carpenter.

Carpenter said he's made the

presentation before – he introduced the talk at the Wayne Historical Society in 1967, and spoke again for the group in 1991. He also gave a presentation to a group in Clear Lake, Fla. Since then, he's uncovered some additional photographs and information.

"It'll be a little bit different this time," he said.

The lecture takes place from 7-8:45 p.m. on Jan. 21 at the Wayne Library, which is at Michigan Avenue and Wayne Road. The program is free, but reservations should be made by calling the library at (734) 721-7832.

'Walk for Warmth' set for Martin Luther King Day

Pam Fleming
Staff Writer

Romulus Community Schools and the City of Romulus will sponsor the second Walk for Warmth at 8:30 a.m. Jan. 20 in commemoration of Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday.

The walk will begin at Romulus Middle School, 37300 Wick Road, and end at Romulus High School, 9650 S. Wayne Road.

The themes for the 2003 program will be "Coming Together for the Common Good. Remember, Celebrate and Act."

"One of the reasons we make such a big deal about Martin Luther King's birthday is because one of his beliefs is that everybody can be great because they can serve mankind. That parallels one of our district mission goals," said Kathy Hurst, district learning coordinator for Romulus schools.

"We want all of our students to learn

about serving their community."

Coffee will be available at 8 a.m. in the middle school cafeteria, and a continental breakfast in the high school cafeteria will follow the walk.

A program designed to celebrate the life and beliefs of Dr. King will take place in the high school auditorium at 9:45 a.m.

Participants are asked to bring new or "gently used" hats, gloves, scarves, coats, blankets and canned goods to benefit the Romulus Helping Hand Agency.

"We had an incredible turnout for our peace walk last year with approximately 500 people attending the morning events," Hurst said.

"We're hoping to attract that many people this year."

Students in Romulus schools have Martin Luther King's birthday off, but in-service training programs are planned for teachers Jan. 20.

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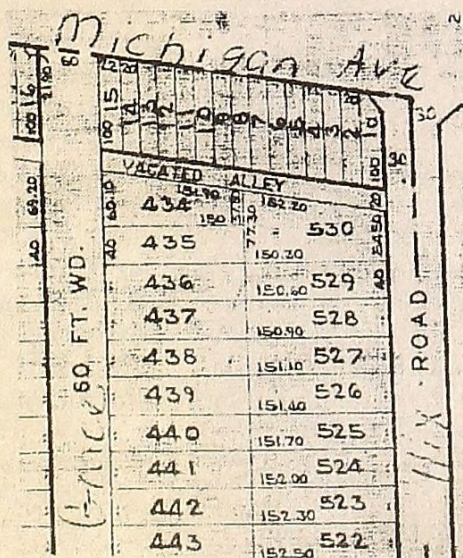
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CITY OF WAYNE Notice of Public Hearing

The City Council of the City of Wayne, Michigan, will hold a Public Hearing on January 21, 2003 at 8:00 p.m., in the Council Chamber of City Hall, 3355 South Wayne Road, to consider rezoning the vacant land located on Michigan Avenue, between Grace Avenue and John Hix Road, Lots 1-15 of Louis Savage Garfield Park Subdivision, from Limited Business District (B-1) to Business Extensive District (B-3). At the conclusion of the Public Hearing, the City Council will consider, and may act upon, this matter.



Mary E. Carney
City Clerk

Publish: January 02, 2003

GM Powertrain donates \$9,000 to robotics team

Pam Fleming
Staff writer

Representatives from the GM Powertrain Romulus Engine Operations recently donated \$9,000 to the Romulus High School Robotics Team for the upcoming FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Competition.

The GM Powertrain & Romulus High School team will be one of 50 teams registered to compete in the West Michigan Regional FIRST Robotics Competition April 3-5 in Grand Rapids.

The FIRST Robotics Competition teams professionals and young people to solve an engineering design problem in an intense, competitive way.

In 2003, the robotics competition will involve more than 20,000 students on some 800 teams in 24 competitions. Teams come from Canada, Brazil, the United Kingdom and almost every state in the U.S. The final competition is in Orlando, Fla.

Myrle Gorsline, manufacturing engineering manager, GM

Romulus Engine; Rick O'Donnell, UAW Local 163 Bargaining Chairman; and Kevin Gay, Manufacturing Engineer, joined Ram Ramanujam, Manufacturing Engineering Manager, GM Romulus Transmission, for the check presentation. The money will pay for competition entry fees and project materials.

A national telecast Jan. 4 outlined the rules for the competition this year. Raw materials such as electric motors, sheets of steel, pipes and wiring will be provided to participants. Students will work with the GM engineers to design a robot, taking into account performance, endurance and the rules of the competition.

Teams have six weeks to design, build and test their robots before the competition.

Robotics Club advisor Terry Bird said that, several years ago, the metal in the electric motor shaft was not strong enough on their robot, which resulted in several breaks in the drive shaft and an early exit from the competition.

Another important aspect of



Representatives from the GM Powertrain Romulus Engine Operations recently donated a check for \$9,000 to the Romulus High School (RHS) Robotics Team for the upcoming FIRST Robotics Competition. First row, left to right: Ram Ramanujam, manufacturing engineering manager, GM Romulus Transmission; Rick O'Donnell, UAW Local 163 bargaining chairman; Myrle Gorsline, manufacturing engineering manager, GM Romulus Engine; Doug Hoffman, RHS assistant principal; and Kevin Gay, manufacturing engineer, GM Romulus Engine. Back row: Jane Johnson, RHS math and technology teacher; RHS students Ken Booker, Scott Williams, Scott Blackburn, Philip Roscoe, Eric Poet and Gavin Hulet; David Cooper, an RHS student teacher; and Terry Bird, RHS industrial technology teacher.

the design phase of the competition is to make sure that the team saves enough of the materials so

that replacement parts are available in case the robot is damaged, Bird added.

"You really have to think things through in order to have an effective robot," Bird said.

Belleville policeman begins new position

Christopher W. Herrick, 23, of Redford, recently joined the Belleville Police Department, bringing the number of officers in Van Buren Township to 35.

Herrick's position was created by a \$125,000 grant the department recently received from the U.S. Department of Justice that provides for a new Student Resource Officer (SRO) in Van Buren Township schools. Officer Kristin Faull has been named the new SRO.

Herrick, who started with the department Dec. 26, grew up in Westland and graduated from John Glenn High School in 1998. He is a recent graduate of the Wayne County Regional Police

Academy, part of the Schoolcraft College law enforcement program. He earned an associate's degree in criminal justice at Schoolcraft.

Becoming a police officer has been a lifelong dream of Herrick's. "It's the one thing I've always wanted to do. The diversity of the job interested me the most," he said.

Herrick said he was also influenced to start a career in law enforcement because he has friends who work as police officers. "I have a friend who works for the Pittsfield Township Police Department and another friend who works for the City of Wayne," he said.



Officer Christopher W. Herrick

The new officer said he will work with a Field Training Officer for four to six months and be on probation for one year. "I'm basically on a learning curve right now," he said. Herrick said he is pleased he was selected as the new officer in Belleville.

City of Romulus to hire 8 additional firefighters

Residents of the City of Romulus may rest a bit easier with the knowledge that eight new firefighters will join the department within the next year, doubling the size of the current department force to 16, according to Romulus Public Safety Director Charles Kirby.

Kirby met recently with Timothy Keyes, director of Economic Development for the City of Romulus; Dave Allison, Fire Department chief, and Dan Redstone of Redstone Architects to discuss the development of a strategic plan to access facility needs for a full-time fire service.

Members of the Romulus City Council recently approved \$16,000 for the plan to be developed by Redstone Architects Inc.

"The most efficient and effective way to staff a fire operation

is a 24-hour-duty shift," Kirby said. "We are currently unable to accomplish this."

Historically, the Romulus Fire Department has been a paid, on-call department.

The addition of eight full-time firefighters will enable the department to staff the two stations 24 hours a day, seven days a week, according to Kirby. Plans are to place two firefighters on each 24-hour shift.

Kirby noted that the current department facilities are not suited for barracks to house firefighters working 24-hour shifts.

Redstone said the strategic plan will assist the city in budgeting and planning for fire service. His firm will produce a report to the city containing evaluations of current fire stations and cost projections for a new station.

Triplets - Romulus teacher receives early Christmas gift

FROM PAGE 1

The Kahlers, both 27, were sweethearts at L'Anse Creuse High School North, meeting at age 15 and marrying five years ago. They've been trying to start a family for about three years, without success, so decided to seek help.

Lisa Kahler learned she was having triplets when she was only six weeks pregnant.

"I remember the ultrasound technician saying, 'There's the first baby,' then 'There's the second baby,' then 'There's the third baby,'" she said.

Ironically, the ultrasound technician was a Romulus High School graduate, so she and Jason Kahler shared some common ground. "Here I was

crying, and they were talking about different teachers at Romulus High School," Lisa Kahler recalled.

The couple said that they were both happy and scared when they heard the news. "Having one kid seems like a big waste of time now," Jason Kahler said.

He said the Romulus community has been very supportive of their situation. "Romulus Middle School gave us 1,000 diapers, and Romulus High School had a shower for Lisa," Kahler said.

At less than a month old, the three are already going through 25 to 30 diapers a day, according to Lisa Kahler.

"One has to be an athlete, one a scholar and one a musi-

cian, so that they can all get scholarships to college," Jason Kahler added.

"I plan on doing a dance when they all start kindergarten," Lisa Kahler added.

The Kahlers said this is their first and last attempt at parenthood after hitting the jackpot with Zachary, Jacob and Gabrielle.

"We are so done," Lisa Kahler said.

She won't go back to work for at least a year, Jason Kahler said, and may consider a career change.

"She's always said she wanted to open a day care center some day, so maybe now's the time, especially with day care costing \$200 per week per kid," Jason Kahler noted.

Carnegie - Fundraiser is set Jan. 24

FROM PAGE 1

may not pursue music as a career path."

While in New York, the students also plan to play tourists—seeing a Broadway show to visiting the Lincoln Center, Statue of Liberty, the United Nations and the Empire State Building.

Post's daughter, Ashley, is a member of the band, so she and her husband, Rodney, will accompany the band and watch the performance.

"It's expensive to stay in New York, with hotel rooms costing as much as \$450 a night. The trip will cost the students about \$80,000," said Post.

"I'm not sure where we're at

financially right now, but that was the initial goal of our fundraisers for the trip," she said.

Recent Belleville Band Boosters fundraisers have included a bake sale, a hot chocolate sale at the Belleville Christmas Parade, a walk-a-thon, and a fund drive at community intersections.

Boosters even work the concession stands at University of Michigan basketball and football games in Ann Arbor to fund their programs.

"That's one of the things we do to raise money outside the community so we don't have to keep calling upon local businesses for donations," Post said. "It helps ease the burden on our local donors a little bit."

OPINION

An unworkable plan

A proposed change to the Westland City Code that would establish a revolving inspection for all rental units in the city – and require a fee for them – shows how difficult it can be to establish a general policy to solve a specific problem.

The goal of the policy – to protect residents and ensure their dwellings are up to current codes – is a laudable one, but the system the city council members discussed Monday night isn't the way to accomplish it.

It's too expensive, for one thing, and it treats renters and their landlords like second-class citizens. The constitutionality of it is questionable at best. This is a country where you can't simply enter a home without permission, no matter how good your intentions are.

City officials proposed the change because of the number of complaints they receive from renters whose landlords are apparently more concerned with collecting rent than providing safe dwelling units. They talked about decks that have collapsed and of 30-year-old apartment complexes that aren't up to current codes. To solve the problem they proposed visiting each apartment unit and requiring landlords to fix any violations. It would cost a minimum of \$50 per unit, an expense that could quickly add up. And they said they would visit every apartment every two years.

There are many different ways to attack the problem. One is to use the authority of the building department to issue tickets for obvious, external violations and begin a public information campaign that tells renters of their rights. Another is to make the program a one-time sweep through the 12,000 estimated rental units in the city. If an apartment is brought up to code now, would it fall out of compliance that quickly?

A third option is to write an ordinance that requires landlords to bring apartments up to code before they can be rented out again. This would be a difficult goal because it would rely on the willing participation of the landlords or professional rental management firms. It would probably be a logistical nightmare for the city.

If the city pursues the issue – Monday it was postponed until it could be discussed in another study session – it should be done with the input of those who will be affected by it. It's the only way the goals will be achieved and the city stay out of court.

A blessing in disguise?

Gov. John Engler may have done the communities in western Wayne County a favor when he vetoed a bill that would have created a Detroit Area Regional Transportation Authority (DARTA).

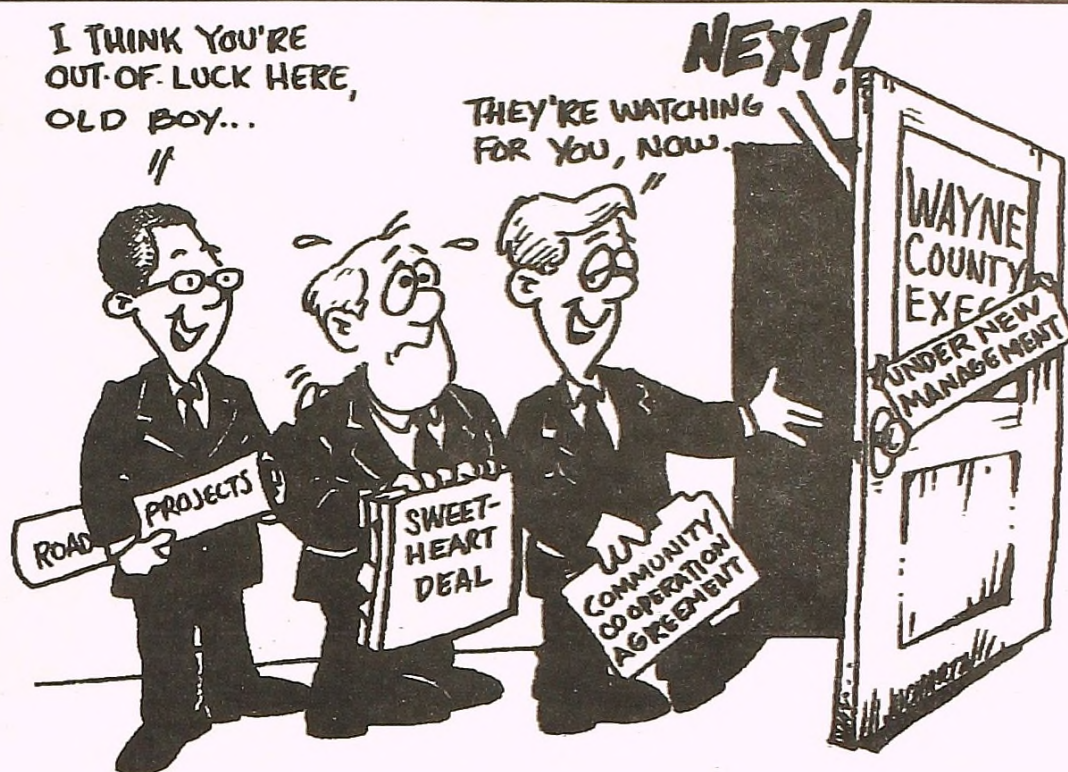
The bill, after more than a year in the development phase, finally met approval in both the House of Representatives and the State Senate, but Engler vetoed it on Dec. 31, his last day in office.

The bill would have created a regional transportation authority that would have, among other things, enveloped or replaced the SMART system. It would called for the creation of a governing board for the authority and given them an 18-month timetable to organize and implement the authority and develop a way to fund it.

Officials have said that a regional public transportation system is vital to the rejuvenation of downtown Detroit, and indeed Wayne County is behind most major metropolitan areas when it comes to mass transit, but the DARTA system still needs some tweaking before it would be effective for everyone.

Opponents of the bill said it would never be effective for everyone. They envisioned empty buses driving through already crowded suburbs. We're concerned at a funding mechanism that would ultimately come from every taxpayer, regardless of whether they used – or want-

See **Blessing**, page 5



An expensive game to play

I have a new game I play at Westland City Council meetings.

It's a simple game and anyone can play, whether they're sitting in the audience on the first and third Monday of every month or watching at home while munching on a bowl of popcorn, dusting, or just relaxing on the couch. The only thing you need is a scratch pad.

I count the number of times I hear the word nepotism and make a small mark at the side of my notebook every time I do. At the end of the meeting, I tally them up. It gives me a chance to go through my notes again and who knows, maybe it will provide some information that I can put into a spreadsheet someday.

Monday night I heard the word 20 times from at least four different people. I know because, like I said, I wrote it down and because I almost left early, and if I had I would have missed the

final six utterances.

This week they all concerned an ongoing case with a supplemental employee who wasn't hired by the city and alleged nepotism on the part of the Civil Service Commission, a group of three volunteers that makes recommendations to city department heads for hiring purposes. It's an appointed board: one member is appointed by the mayor, another by the employees and the third is appointed by the first two appointees.

The supplemental employee, named Brandon Bear, appealed to the city council at the first meeting I attended. Since then he's filed a lawsuit against the city, asking for \$1 million in lost wages and damages.

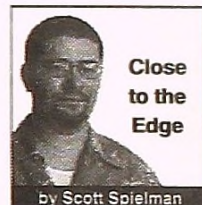
I don't mean to make light of his situation; it's a frustrating thing to put in your time, working toward some higher ideal or larger, long-term goal, only to be

rebuffed. It's natural to look for causes and it

may even be natural to try to find fault in a commission where one member is related to other potential employees seeking jobs with the city.

The matter is in the court system now, and that's ultimately where it will be decided, not in the court of public opinion, as City Attorney Angelo Plakas referred to the city council meeting (just before he ripped off three "nepotisms").

The 20 utterances is a milestone since I've been keeping track. It's actually down since the city and the library resolved the issue of their computer consultant – at a cost of only about \$17,000 annually to city taxpayers. I wonder, when this has at last been decided, how much it will cost.



Close to the Edge
by Scott Spielman

That's one conservative Democrat

Gov. Granholm, welcome to the fold.

I was a little surprised as I listened to your inaugural address last week. I expected to hear all of the liberal, feel-good pap and platitudes that one would anticipate on such august occasions. Oh, you did not disappoint me completely, but there were a few moments that made me look around the room to see if Rod Serling or Allen Funt were lurking about.

"...it will take more than government to enhance our quality of life, especially in these tough, tight, trying economic times. It will take all of us working together" to do things like paint school-house walls and fix their doors, teach kids to read and help the elderly.

At first, I was inclined to be offended, as I usually am when politicians, who often believe that community service comes with a government check, advo-

cate programs of forced volunteerism. Americans, after all, are the most selflessly giving people on earth. So it was natural for me to bristle at your call for me to volunteer even more of myself than I already do. There is, after all, only so much of me to go around.

What I heard next, though, shook all of those negative thoughts from me. I thought I heard, not applause, but the jaws of thousands of Democrats dropping to the floor as you seemed to espouse a core conservative principle. Democrats, after all, are the party of Big Government. Mention "privatization" and the political scions of FDR shriek and wail. They ridicule "a thousand points of light" while praising government-subsidized programs like Americorps and its tax-guzzling siblings.

And you, Gov. Granholm, said that Big Government could not do it alone. You said that volun-

teers, the ones who believe that "service to humanity is the best work of life," are needed to make our world a better place. You invoked the name and memory of John F. Kennedy, a strong believer in the principles of volunteerism and tax cuts. It made me wonder if you were stopped on the road to Lansing by a bright light and shown a vision of what life can be like in a society where Big Government takes a back seat to We The People. And is this a harbinger of Kennedyesque tax cuts? I am giddy with excitement.

So I welcome you, Governor, into the conservative fold. Sure, it may have taken a tremendous budget shortfall for you to see the light, but so what? If I may offer a piece of economic advice (I



Hold the Phone
by Russ Franzen

See **Surprised**, page 5

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Book discussion group to meet

The cold nights of winter make for the perfect time to curl up with a good book by the fire, and the Northville District Library Book Discussion Group will discuss "The Lucky Gourd Shop" by Joanna C. Scott around the library fireplace from 7-8 p.m. Jan. 13.

Librarian Jeannine Davidson said there is no cost to attend the discussion, and free refreshments will be served. She said the book is a popular work of fiction at the library.

Davidson said the group meets the second Monday of every month to discuss contemporary books, alternating between fiction and non-fiction. She said everyone is welcome to attend. Participants do not need to join a club or pre-register.

"It's a wonderful, friendly group," Davidson said.

The Northville District Library is located at 212 W. Cady Street in Northville. For more information, contact the library at (248) 349-3020.

Youth artist competition is announced

Scott Spielman
Editor

The deadline is fast approaching for students who want to enter the annual Youth Artist Competition sponsored by the Plymouth Symphony Orchestra.

The contest is open to 7th to 12th grade piano, orchestra or band students in the Livonia, Northville, Novi, Plymouth-Canton, Van Buren or Wayne-Westland school districts.

The deadline for the competition is Jan. 24, and the competition takes place on Feb. 9 at Evola Music in Canton Township.

Competitions take place in two categories: a junior division (grades 7-9) and a senior division (grades 10-12). First place senior division winners receive a \$500 scholarship and first place junior division winners receive a \$250 scholarship. Winners may also have the opportunity to play with the Plymouth Symphony Orchestra – last year, the winners played with the orchestra during a special tribute concert on Sept. 11.

Applications are available on the Plymouth Symphony website, www.plymouthsymphony.org or by calling the symphony at (734) 451-2112.

Play auditions scheduled for Jan. 12

Aspiring young actors have the chance to audition for the upcoming production of *The Emperor's New Clothes* at the Marquis Theatre in Northville.

Auditions are at 6 p.m. Jan. 12 at the theatre.

Auditions are for children 8-15 years old. Performers must prepare a song in their vocal range and bring their own sheet music. An accompanist is provided. Performers must also prepare to read a poem for no longer than two minutes. The poem need not be memorized.

For more information call the theatre at (248) 349-8110. The Marquis Theatre is located at 135 E. Main St. in Northville.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Clown praises story
To the editor;

I would like to thank *The Belleville Enterprise* for writing the story about myself, the Belleville Parade, Wayne County Community College outreach program and the clown academy.

Your staff writer, Pam Fleming, did a great job writing the story. She sat there asking questions and taking notes. I was surprised at how well she was able to take

the facts and make a story that flowed together.

The dean of WCCC Downriver campus, Bob Bailey, was really pleased with the article. The college is always looking for new courses that will appeal to people in the area.

Thank you again for a great story.
Alan J. Townsend
Yo-yo the Clown,
Romulus

Surprise - New governor's speech is exciting

FROM PAGE 4

recall that, as attorney general, you had a little difficulty understanding the principles of supply-and-demand), remember that when people have more money to spend, they buy more things and the economy grows.

I am still flabbergasted by what I heard you say. It is so rare for a Democrat to turn coat. Then again, maybe John Engler

slipped a copy of one of his speeches into your pocket without your knowledge. He is quite a prankster, you know.

I suppose we will know if your conversion is genuine as time goes by. It will not be easy. You will be tempted by those who use feelings instead of reason to make their points. Do not be fooled. When it happens, just remember the advice of another famous conservative woman and "Just Say No."

Blessing - Veto may be good

FROM PAGE 4

ed – the mass transit to begin with. One suggestion for a funding mechanism was to increase the sales tax by 2 cents, which would suggest that communities would not have the option to opt out of the system.

It also didn't take into account successful programs like the Nankin Transit Authority, which serves the cities of Wayne, Westland and Inkster. It serves about 3,000 residents a month.

A regional transportation system may be necessary to rejuvenate the City of Detroit, but the system proposed needs some modifications before it can cure those ills and help spark that recovery.

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Time to celebrate the uniqueness of you

Some time ago, the Springfield, Oregon *Public Schools Newsletter* published a great article. I think there's a lot of truth we can derive from it.

Once upon a time, the animals decided they should do something meaningful to meet the problems of the new world. So they organized a school.

They adopted an activity curriculum of running, climbing, swimming and flying. To make it easier to administer the curriculum, all the animals took all the subjects.

The duck was excellent in swimming; in fact, better than his instructor. But he made only passing grades in flying, and was very poor in running. Since he was slow in running, he had to drop swimming, and stay after school to practice running. This caused his web feet to be badly worn, so that he was only average in swimming. But average was quite acceptable, so nobody worried about that - except the duck.

The rabbit started at the top of his class in running, but developed a nervous twitch in his leg muscles because of so much make-up work in swimming.

The squirrel was excellent in climbing, but he encountered constant frustration in flying class because his teacher made him start from the ground up instead of from

the treetop down. He developed charlie horses from overexertion, and so only got a C in climbing and a D in running.

The eagle was a problem child and was severely disciplined for being a non-conformist. In climbing classes he beat all the others to the top of the tree, but insisted on using his own way to get there.

The obvious moral of the story is a simple one - each creature has its own set of capabilities at which it will naturally excel - unless it is expected or forced to fill a mold that doesn't fit. When that happens, frustration, discouragement, and even guilt bring overall mediocrity or complete defeat. A duck is a duck - and ONLY a duck. It is built to swim, not to run or fly and certainly not to climb. A squirrel is a squirrel - and ONLY that. To move it out of its forte, climbing, and then expect it to swim or fly will drive a squirrel nuts. Eagles are beautiful creatures in the air, but not in a foot race. The rabbit will win every time unless, of course, the eagle gets hungry.

I have observed similar frustrations in the human kingdom as well. God has constructed you in a unique way. There's only one of you. All of us are like snowflakes, no two of us are exactly alike. And when we attempt to be something that we weren't designed to be, well, it just doesn't

work!

I love the line in *Chariots of Fire*, when the actor who portrayed Eric Liddel says to his sister, "Jenny, when I run I feel God's pleasure." What he was saying is that God created him to run. He was fast, very fast. But I don't think he would have fared nearly as well at lifting weights or wrestling.

What I'm trying to say is that if God made you a duck - you're a duck. Swim like mad, but don't get bent out of shape because you wobble when you run or flap instead of fly.

And if you're an eagle, stop expecting squirrels to soar, or rabbits to build the same kind of nests that you do.

When I first began to be involved in music ministry, I attempted to imitate oth-

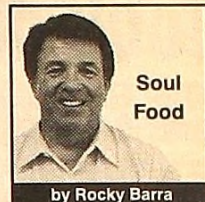
ers that were recognized in contemporary Christian music.

One problem - I wasn't them - I was me. It was only when I began to recognize that reality that God could begin to bless what I was doing.

So a great way to begin this new year is to relax.

Cultivate your own capabilities. Stay with your own style. And learn to appreciate others for who they are, even though their particular style might be light years from your own. Rabbits don't fly. Eagles don't swim.

Ducks look pretty stupid trying to climb. Squirrels don't have feathers. So stop comparing and begin to enjoy being you. You are most unique.



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Hypnotist to speak at Northville library

Heather Connor
Staff Writer

Hypnotherapist Elizabeth Barker will mesmerize participants Jan. 16 at a workshop in the Northville District Library entitled "Hypnotism: Myths and Misconceptions."

Barker, a hypnotherapist certified with the State of Michigan, said she would show the class the techniques of self-hypnosis to reduce stress.

Librarian Jeannine Davidson said the workshop is one of many offered at the library throughout the year.

"We have a lot of patrons who ask for more information on hypnosis. This will clear the air on its paranormal aspects, as it is very beneficial," Davidson said. "It is part of the goal of the library to educate people as they ask."

Barker said she teaches in a format that allows students to directly experience what is studied. She said she believes in "gentle therapies" that show people how to help themselves. The class will discuss hypnosis and its misconceptions to get rid of the "Hollywood image," and help people realize it is useful and important, she said.

"It's a fun thing to try something you may have always heard about but never explored," Barker said.

Barker teaches stress and anger management classes to teen-agers at Stone School in Ann Arbor and also teaches continuing education classes at Schoolcraft

"We have a lot of patrons who ask for more information on hypnosis. This will clear the air on its paranormal aspects, as it is very beneficial. It is part of the goal of the library to educate people as they ask."

Jeannine Davidson

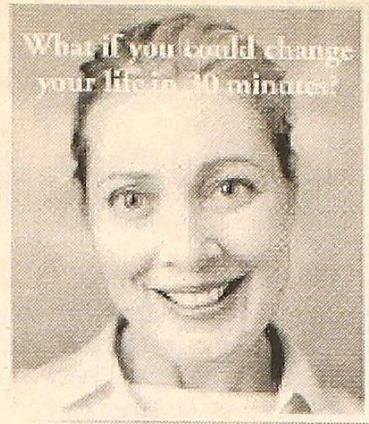
College that deal with self-hypnosis. She also teaches a class at Schoolcraft dealing with energy, exploring reiki energy and cranial-sacral therapy.

"Cranial-sacral therapy deals with using your body's own forces to realign itself to overcome trauma and injury."

Barker studied hypnosis at the Institute of Holistic Health at Riverside Hospital in Trenton. She became a hypnotherapist in 1996 after studying hypnosis since the 1970s.

Davidson said the workshop is from 7-9 p.m. and free to the public. She also suggested participants register in advance. The Northville District Library is located at 212 West Cady Street.

For more information call the library at (248) 349-3020.



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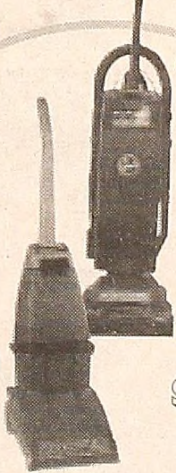
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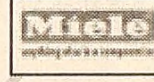


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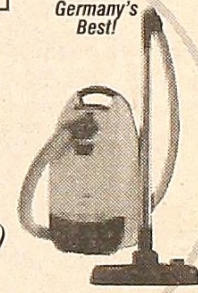
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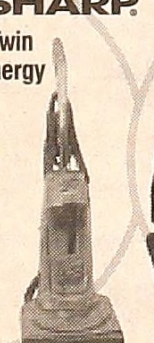
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SPORTS

Northville edges Canton in league thriller

Scott Spielman
Editor

A strong second half performance led the Northville Mustangs over the Canton Chiefs on Friday.

The lead switched hands several times when the two teams met at Northville High School in their respective league opening games. Northville won the contest 65-61.

"We had some great opportunities, but we made some mental mistakes," said Canton Coach Jeremy Rheault. "They made the plays down the stretch."

"It was just a fantastic high school basketball game," said Northville Coach Darrel Schumacher. "I wish I'd have been a spectator."

The Mustangs put up a big first quarter, scoring 21 points and keeping the Chiefs to a still-respectable 16.

Rheault said after that the Chiefs concentrated on stopping the Northville transition play, clamping down on the defense in the second period. The strategy worked; they held Northville to 10 points in the second quarter and they scored 18 to take a 34-31 lead into half time.

"Our inside game was clicking," Rheault said.

Northville outscored Canton 17-14 in the third quarter, and the game was tied going into the final frame.

It was a shaky first minute that eventually decided the game, according to Rheault. Canton committed three quick

turnovers in about a minute and Northville's Adam Konst made them pay. He ripped off on a breakaway lay up, and then found himself between two Canton players when they passed the ball. He tipped another pass and scored on that turnover to give the Mustangs six quick points.

"He had some big steals late in the game that got us back up when the game had been back and forth," Schumacher said. Konst scored 10 of his 24 points in the fourth quarter.

Canton out-rebounded the Mustangs 34-14 on the night. Brad Waidmann led them with 18 points and nine rebounds; Steve Thornton had 16 points and 10 rebounds, D. J. Bridges had 13 points and 11 rebounds and Andy Cortellini had nine assists for the Chiefs.

Scott McNeish put up 14 points for Northville. Marcus Davis scored 10 points and Roger Garfield contributed nine.

Schumacher said the Mustangs were lucky to pull out the victory against Canton; the win put them at 6-0 on the year and 1-0 in the league.

"I honestly thought they had us," Schumacher said. "They were certainly poised to win the game."

Canton heads to Walled Lake Central tomorrow and Walled Lake Western on Tuesday. The Chiefs are 2-4 on the year and 0-1 in the league.

Northville travels to John Glenn tomorrow and hosts their cross-town rival Novi on Tuesday. They played Churchill



The Chiefs and the Mustangs battled it out for a full game Friday night. In the end Northville came out on top 65-61. Photo by R. Alwood, Jr.

Tuesday night, but the outcome of that game wasn't known at press time. sneak up and get you if you're not paying attention," Schumacher said.

"They're one of those teams that can "We've just got to keep it rolling."

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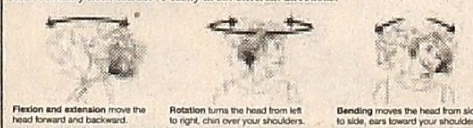
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John Glenn hoopsters drop league opener at Stevenson

The John Glenn Rockets men's basketball team had a chance to win their league and division opener Friday night, but the potential winning basket fell about an inch short.

Down 52-53 against Livonia Stevenson, the Rockets had about six seconds to nail the winning basket. They traveled the length of the court and Darnell Smith put a shot up from about six feet away, but it bounced off the rim as time expired, according to John Glenn Coach Joel Lloyd.

"Give credit where credit is due: Stevenson played a good game," Lloyd said. The Rockets are 4-2 overall, and 0-1 in the division. Stevenson is 6-1 and 1-0.

John Glenn climbed to an early lead in the first quarter, which they won 14-7. A dismal second quarter spelled the beginning of a bad night, though. The Spartans outscored them 23-10 to take a 30-24 lead into half time.

They struck early in the second, and converted three quick turnovers to go on an 8-0 run and take their first lead of the night, according to Lloyd.

"We just didn't play well in that quarter," he said.

The third quarter was even, with each team scoring 14 points. John Glenn rallied in the fourth, scoring 14 and allowing nine, but it wasn't enough to hold off the

Spartans.

John Glenn was trailing 52-50 with less than a minute to go when they hit a lay up to tie the game at 52. They got aggressive and the resulting foul sent the Spartans to the free throw line, where they hit only one of two. That shot turned out to be the game winner.

The Rockets were only seven-of-16 from the line, while Stevenson was 10-of-16.

"That played a part, too," Lloyd said.

Senior guard Jarret Smith led the Rockets with 21 points on the night. Darnell Wilson contributed 19. For Livonia it was Keith Hearn with 17 and Brandon Chitwood with 13.

The loss was a disappointing one for the Rockets.

"Just like everyone else, we wanted to get off to a good start," Lloyd said.

The Rockets played another division game Tuesday night against Walled Lake Central and they play a crossover tonight against the undefeated Northville Mustangs. The outcome of the Tuesday game wasn't known at press time. Next week the Rockets play Wayne Memorial.

Lloyd said they would try to rebound from the loss.

"It's time to get down to the nitty gritty," he said.



The Salem Rocks were just minutes away from their first loss of the season, but rallied to a tie against Walled Lake Central. Photo by R. Alwood, Jr.

Salem icers rally to tie Central, 4-4

Scott Spielman
Editor

The Salem Rocks men's hockey team narrowly avoided their first blemish on the season Friday night when they hosted Walled Lake Central at the Plymouth Cultural Center.

The Rocks were down 2-4 against the Vikings with only a couple of minutes left in the game before they rallied to tie the game, according to Salem Coach Fred Feiler. The tie preserves their perfect season; they

are 9-0-1 on the year.

"It was one of those games where the puck wasn't bouncing our way," Feiler said.

Jeff Harris led the Rocks with two goals on the night, including the eventual tying goal, which he scored with about 40 seconds left in the game.

The Chargers came out strong against Salem. They scored their first goal on a five-on-three advantage in the first period, and followed that up with a short-handed goal. The Chargers' luck was exactly the opposite, according to Feiler. Three of their four goals were deflections that would have been virtually impossible to stop.

"Our guys kept digging in," he said. "We just couldn't get the pick to go in. We did everything but put it in the net."

John Schultz also played a strong game for the Rocks.

Salem travels to the Novi Ice Arena tomorrow to take on the Northville Mustangs. Next week they host Livonia Churchill at the Cultural Center in Plymouth. The game starts at 8 p.m.

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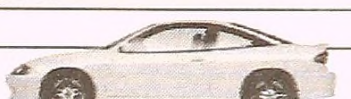
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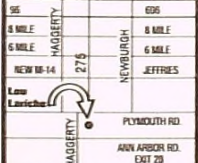


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Hoop time

The Belleville and Romulus basketball teams are back from winter break now, and ready for the second part of the season. Belleville's next home game is tomorrow against Ypsilanti. Romulus takes the court against River Rouge.

Bartlett, Aquinto strong in tourney

Bethany Bartlett and Ashley Aquinto each put in a strong show Saturday at the Salem Invitational, but it wasn't enough to lift the Rocks' gymnastics team to a victory.

The Rocks finished in sixth place at the seven-team invite. Farmington won it.

"We didn't have our best meet," said Salem Coach Dana Driscoll. "There were a lot of state-level performers there."

Bartlett finished with a 35.10 in the all around, including a 9.1 on the floor and a 9.1 on the vault, an 8.85 on the bars and an 8.05 on the beam. Aquinto finished the day with a 34.95 in the all around, including a 9.2 on the floor, an 8.7 on the bars and an 8.7 on the beam.

"This was our first all-day meet with a lot of competition," Driscoll said. "The girls handled it pretty well."

Salem has a young team this year, after losing the majority of their top performers to graduation. The team may be young, but they are quick learners with a lot of potential, according to Driscoll.

"By the end of the season, I think this team will be a lot better," she said. "That's our goal."

The Rocks hosted Brighton in a dual meet last night, but the outcome wasn't known at press time. They host Livonia Consolidated Monday in a dual meet that starts at 7 p.m.

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Charter Township of Van Buren Board of Zoning Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, January 21, 2003 at 7:00 p.m.**, in the Board of Trustees Room, 46425 Tyler Road, Charter Township of Van Buren, County of Wayne, Michigan 48111.

The Public Hearing relates to Parcel Number V125-83-047-99-0001-003, commonly known as 8601 Haggerty Road. This property is located on the east side of Haggerty Road, south of Ecorse Road.

The subject site is located within the Charter Township of Van Buren M-1 (Light Industrial) Zoning District. The applicant, Daikin Clutch, is proposing to enlarge an existing one hundred twenty thousand four hundred ninety-four (120,494) square feet building by adding thirty-five thousand seven hundred thirty-nine (35,739) square feet. The existing building is a minor non-conforming structure.

The applicant is requesting the following two (2) variances:

- ARTICLE V, Section 5.04 (D)(1) NONCONFORMING USES AND BUILDINGS, ENLARGING A MINOR NONCONFORMING USE, to enlarge a minor nonconforming structure by more than 20% of the total existing structure size.
- ARTICLE XVII, Section 17.02 SCHEDULE OF REGULATIONS, FRONT YARD SETBACK, M-1 Light Industrial
 - 50 - foot minimum front yard required
 - 45 - foot minimum front yard existing and proposed
 - 5 - foot variance is requested

Written comments will be accepted at the Department of Developmental Services until 5:00 p.m. on the date of the above reference Public Hearing.

In the spirit of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with a disability should feel free to contact the Department of Developmental Services at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the meeting, if requesting accommodations.

Publish: January 9, 2003
Posted: January 3, 2003

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Iced

The Plymouth Whalers had their 18-game unbeaten streak stopped last week, but are still in first in the OHL West. They play Windsor and Sarnia at home on Friday and Saturday. Both games start at 7:30 p.m. Photo by R. Alwood, Jr.

Northville wrestlers show improvement

Scott Spielman
Editor

It didn't take long for the Northville Wrestling squad to show some improvement.

Less than halfway through the season, the Mustangs have started to come together, according to Coach Joel Smith. It was evident in their strong showing Saturday at the Wyandotte-Roosevelt Invitational.

The Mustangs finished in sixth place at the 17-team meet, despite voiding out two weight classes, Smith said.

"It was a real positive note for us," Smith said. "It's showed the

progression that the team has made."

Jeff Ponder (160 pounds) led the Mustangs with a fourth place finish. He made it to the semi-finals in his weight class, but was defeated there, according to Smith.

Adam Blunk (103) finished in fifth place; Josh DeAnna (125) finished in fourth; Rich Reigner (152) finished in fifth place; Ben Mason (189) finished in fifth and heavyweight Mark Mueller finished in fourth.

Belleville won the tournament, and Churchill came in second, overall. Salem finished in the third spot and Ryan Stump

(103) finished as the co-MVP of the invitational.

"It was impressive to see their effort," said Smith of his Mustangs. "They're coming on strong just in time for the league meets."

The tournament gave the Mustangs their first look at the Churchill Chargers, but it won't be the last. In fact they travel to Churchill tonight to take on the squad in a dual meet, according to Smith.

"They've got a real nice squad," Smith said.

"It'll be a tough dual meet for us. They're solid all the way through."

John Glenn places 5th

The John Glenn Rockets Wrestling squad just missed a top showing Saturday against some state-ranked teams.

The Rockets had several wrestlers narrowly defeated by defending state champions, according to Coach Bill Polk.

Even so, the Rockets didn't have a bad day; they finished in fifth place among 20 teams at the Lothrop Invitational.

"It was a tough meet," said Polk. There were quite a few state qualifiers there."

The Rockets had seven wrestlers place. Rece Cox (135) finished in second place, losing to the defending state champ by

only two points.

Nick Naber (112) finished in fifth place. He lost to the defending state champion by a single point at the end of the match.

"(He) was pretty much dominating everyone all day, but Naber hung in there and gave him a run," Polk said.

Darren Cruickshank also lost by a single point to a two-time state qualifier, Polk said.

"We lost a few close matches," Polk said. "If we had won some of those, it would have made a difference in the standings. But we wrestled five tough matches and that's what we wanted. I'm happy with the turnout."

Canton loses Hogg to injury

It was a good day and a bad day for the Canton Chiefs wrestling squad Saturday, when they traveled to the South Lyon Tournament.

Steve Hogg, who led the Chiefs to an eighth-place finish with a second place in the 119 pound weight class, broke his wrist and was kept out of the championship, according to Coach Casey Randolph.

"He wrestled extremely well all day," Randolph said. "It's going to hurt us to have him out of the lineup." Randolph said Hogg would be out at least a month, and possibly six weeks.

Dan Bergsma (130), Ryan Webb (135) and Tim Larsen (171) all earned third place finishes on

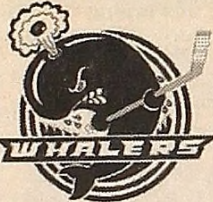
the day. Rob Schnettler (125) just missed a chance to advance beyond his fourth place finish.

"He lost a close match on a 2-1 decision that would've put him into the finals," Randolph said. "He should've been in."

The Chiefs were also hampered by the loss of two other starters. They had to void the 152, 160 and 145 pound weight classes, which cost them some points.

The Chiefs will host Wayne Memorial in a dual meet tonight and Canton's chances are nearly directly proportional to who will be well enough to wrestle, Randolph said.

"It's definitely a big match for us, as far as our league standings are concerned," he said.



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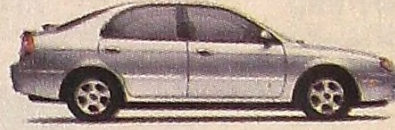
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